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C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 003760

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [LE](#) [IS](#) [SY](#) [CA](#)

SUBJECT: CANADA SUPPORTS BLUE LINE PEACE BUT HAS LITTLE  
LEVERAGE

REF: SECSTATE 232383

Classified By: POLOFF Keith Mines, Reasons 1.4 (B) and (d)

1. (U) Poloff delivered reftel to Peter McRae, Director of the Middle East Division at Foreign Affairs Canada (FAC) on 29 December 2005.

2. (C) McRae agreed with the American position of encouraging Syria and Iran to end their support for rejectionist groups in southern Lebanon as well as their interference in internal Lebanese affairs but conceded that the Government of Canada (GoC) has little leverage. He is convinced that Syria perceives it to be in its best interest to foment trouble and agitate for the ouster of Premier Siniora and that Canadian relations with Syria were almost, but not quite, as bad as those of the US. As a result, opportunities for dialogue would likely be limited. He said, however, that the GoC has repeatedly urged the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic (SARG) to meet its obligations under UNSCR 1559.

3. (C) McRae explained that GoC policy on Iran limits its engagement to three issues: 1) nuclear, 2) general human rights and 3) the Kazemi case. He added, however, that if the occasion were to arise, the GoC would express the positions outlined in reftel. Poloff provided a non-paper.

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WILKINS